

NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable the House of Commons,
dated 28 July 1853.—*for*,

COPY " of a Resolution lately adopted by the Board of NATIONAL EDUCATION
in Ireland, excluding the Use of certain Books for the Schools under
their Management."

EXTRACT from the MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS of the Meeting of the BOARD
OF NATIONAL EDUCATION, held 28th July 1853.

Commissioners Present :— The Right Honourable the Lord Chancellor; the
Right Honourable T. Blackburne; the Reverend Dr. Henry, President
Queen's College, Belfast; T. J. Murphy, Esq., Master in Chancery; James
O'Ferrall, Esq.; Robert Andrews, Esq., L.L.D., Q.C.; Right Honourable
Alexander Macdonnell, Resident Commissioner.

The Commissioners refer to and take into consideration the proceedings of
the Special Meeting held on the 17th June 1853, with reference to Rule 8,
Section II., as to the use of the " Scripture Lessons," " Lessons on the Truths of
Christianity," and the " Book of Sacred Poetry."

Ordered,

1st. That in accordance with the opinions expressed on that occasion by
seven Members out of eleven present, the " Lessons on the Truths of Chris-
tianity" be withdrawn from the list of books published by direction of the
Commissioners.

2d. That in accordance with the opinions expressed by ten Members, the
" Introductory Lessons on Christian Evidences" be also withdrawn from the
list of books not published, but sanctioned, by the Commissioners.

3d. That in accordance with the opinions expressed by seven Members, the
Rule 8, Section II. (which is as follows) be amended :

" The Commissioners do not insist on the ' Scripture Lessons,' ' Lessons on
the Truths of Christianity,' or Book of ' Sacred Poetry,' being read in any of
the National Schools, nor do they allow them to be read during the times of
secular or literary instruction in any school attended by children whose parents
or guardians object to their being so read. In such case the Commissioners
prohibit the use of them, except at the times of religious instruction, when the
persons giving it may use these books or not, as they think proper." And that
the following Resolutions, proposed by the Right Honourable Baron Greene,
omitting the words, " Lessons on the Truths of Christianity," be substituted :—

" The Commissioners do not insist on the ' Scripture Lessons,' ' Lessons on
the Truths of Christianity,' or ' Book of Sacred Poetry' being read in any of
the National Schools, nor do they allow them to be read as a part of the ordi-
nary school business (during which all children, of whatever denomination they
may be, are required to attend,) in any school attended by children whose parents
or guardians object to their being so read by their children. In such case the
Commissioners prohibit the use of these books, except at times set apart for the
purpose either before or after the ordinary school business, and under the fol-
lowing conditions :

" 1st. That no child whose parent or guardian objects shall be required directly
or indirectly to be present at such reading.

" 2d. That in order that no child whose parent or guardian objects may be
present at the reading of the books above specified, public notification of the
time set apart for such reading shall be inserted in large letters in the ' Time
Table' of the school, that there shall be a sufficient interval between the
ordinary school business and the commencement of such reading, and that the
826. teachers,

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teachers shall immediately before its commencement announce distinctly to the pupils, that any child whose parent or guardian so desires may then retire.

" 3d. That in every such case there shall be, exclusive of the time set apart for such reading, sufficient time devoted each day to the ordinary school business, in order that those children who do not join in the reading of the books may enjoy ample means of literary instruction in the school."

Ordered,—That the foregoing Resolutions take effect from the present date.

Ordered,—That the forthcoming Report (19th) of the Commissioners be prepared and submitted for their consideration at the earliest practicable period, and that there be embodied therein a statement of the course now adopted with reference to Rule 8, and to the "Lessons on the Truths of Christianity," and the "Lessons on Christian Evidences."

Ordered,—That copies of the foregoing proceedings be transmitted to the Lord Lieutenant, also to the Archbishop of Dublin, and to the Members of the Board not present at this meeting.

James O'Ferrall, Esq. withdraws his amendment to the resolution proposed by the Right Honourable Baron Greene.

Master Murphy reiterates the statement made by him at the meeting of the 17th June, that if Rule 8 underwent no alteration he was satisfied that the "Lessons on the Truths of Christianity," and the "Lessons on Christian Evidences," should remain on the list of books published or sanctioned by the Board.

Education Office, Dublin, }
25 July 1853.

Maurice Cross,
James Kelly,
Secretaries.



(Sd. John Young.)

Ordered by The Board of Commissioners to be Printed,
26 July 1853.